

27th April, 1953

Dear Professor Lederberg,

Thank you for your letter of the 23rd April which I have just received.

The certificates from Dean Elvejhem had already reached me at the end of last week. They will undoubtedly be of use for the obtaining of a visa.

The question of a suitable visa seems to be vexed one. I am most grateful for all the trouble you have taken on my behalf and I do feel myself to be under a deep obligation to you for all your efforts. I am afraid that evidence of sponsorship other than your letter of offer would be required, this is specifically stated on the application form. I have now decided, therefore, to apply for a Student visa. I am sure this will entail less trouble for all concerned. If the question of extra-mural employment does arise, this can no doubt be dealt with on the spot by application to the U.S. Immigration Service.

I must say that I was rather surprised that the question of possible induction should arise. Foreign residents in the U.K. of about 2 years or more are liable under our National Service Act, but this does not apply to those who have already completed military service in their own country. I am not unduly worried by this prospect as I am sure, as you say, that the situation would not in fact arise. If it did there would no doubt be further repercussions from the War Office here. This because I am still officially on the reserve (or unemployed list) and liable to instant recall, as such I cannot enlist without Her Majesty's permission in the armed forces of a Foreign Power. All this is rather hypothetical particularly since the likelihood of a 'hot war' seem rather more remote of recent weeks. I am thankful, nevertheless, that you did think of this snag so that I may be more fully prepared if it does arise.

Your reprints have been most helpful, several of the papers I had already read, but there are some which I had not seen previously. I will return them on my arrival in Wisconsin.

I do not have any further questions to put to you at the moment, I feel that I have already overburdened you with these. I do, however, have one request. Would it be possible for you to send me two or three copies of a letter of offer or contract? In many applications - for visa, transfer of sterling, etc. - one has to submit originals of such documents and they are frequently not returned.

I am very much looking forward to my visit to Wisconsin and am sure, if I take your efforts as an example of the atmosphere that I shall meet, that I will be most happy.

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I presume that arrangements for accommodation can be made through the Housing Bureau when one is rather more certain of the final arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

*AB Martin*